



It's All About Families

WIC Family Centered Education (FCE)

July 2003 Newsletter

FCE Collaborators Getting Together

On June 2, the six WIC agencies participating in the FCE Community Collaboration pilot met together in Sacramento. We shared project ideas, showcased what was going on, and talked about the future. We will be meeting again August 14 and September 25.

We will be training the WIC educators from the pilot agencies at 2 on-site FCE trainings.

At the end of the project, we plan to share what worked and lessons learned with the WIC community. And we will be offering FCE training for other WIC agencies.

Does your neighborhood have toy lending library? Most do!

Toy Lending Libraries are a boon for families and child care providers. The library can serve so many needs. There are parents looking to try something out before they buy it, parents who have a limited income, and day care providers just starting out who need startup materials, toys and outdoor equipment. The California Department of Education funds many of the lending libraries. For a small maintenance fee, parents and child care providers who live or care for children can borrow resources.

**“These toy lending libraries are
Monterey’s best kept secret!”**

Michelle Fox, Monterey WIC

(Well, maybe not anymore...)

Reading Readiness at NWA

At the National WIC Association’s annual meeting in 2003, there was a Reading Readiness showcase. WIC agencies from 5 different regions presented programs that they developed to encourage reading among WIC participants.

A guide was put together of all new reading readiness programs that have been implemented by WIC State and local agencies. California WIC is included.

The booklet is up on the WIC Works web site in a PDF file that can be printed.

http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Topics/Reading_Readiness.html

Building Blocks

Thank you to Community Resource Project, WIC for sharing this great idea. Their WIC educators make children’s building blocks from empty Food Instrument boxes by covering the boxes with contact paper. The result- a colorful, inexpensive and quiet toy for children in their WIC clinics.



**Keep us posted on what you’re doing so we
can share with others!**

Please contact us any time!

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Getting Ready for School

What Are WIC Parents Saying?

Last year during the FCE pilot, we interviewed 30 WIC parents at 4 sites in a Bay area WIC agency to find out about what they do at home to help their children learn. The WIC parents answered a questionnaire, either orally or in writing, in their preferred language (half of them were Spanish speaking.) The results are highlighted below.

Here's what WIC Parents said:

What do you do at home to help children learn?

- Reading (53%)
- Playing (33%)
- Drawing and coloring (23%)

How often do you take children on outings?

- **76%-3 or more times/week**
- *(a great opportunity for WIC educators to share how everyday outings like shopping can be a learning time for families)*

How much TV and activity?

- 57% watch TV more than 2 hours a day
- 33% play outside more than 2 hours a day

Where do you find out about parenting, family support and school readiness for children?

- 74% from WIC (*we are a valued resource*)
- 60% from School
- 50% from Family Members
- 37% from Early Childhood Centers

What information would you like?

- Family Reading/learning
- Parent Education
- English as a Second Language
- What children should know for kindergarten
- Child development
- A place that gives information about local services for young children



How can WIC help your children learn?

- Offer skill building activities-play games, read, do the numbers
- Activities already doing in WIC classes
- Going to schools and speaking, also at family functions